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EXHIBITING ITS RELATION TO THE HEAVENLY BODIES,
ITS PHYSICAL STRUCTURE,
THE NATURAL HISTORY OF EACH COUNTRY,
AND THE INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS,
AND CIVIL AND SOCIAL STATE
OF
ALL NATIONS.

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ASSISTED IN
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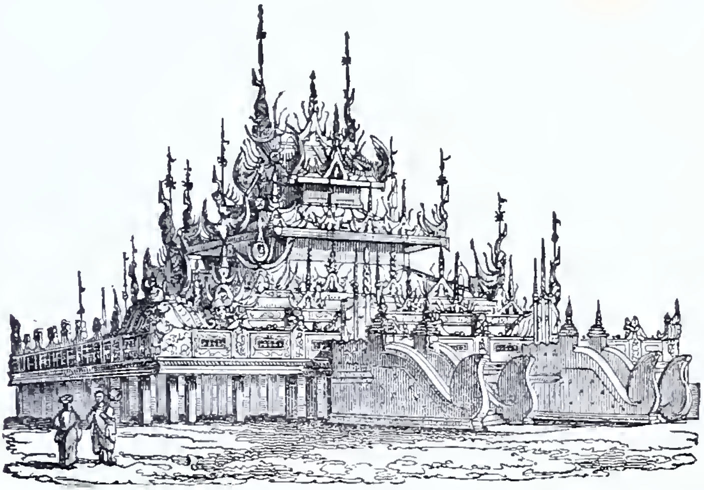
GEOLOGY, &c. BY PROF. JAMESON, | ZOOLOGY, &c. BY W. SWAINSON, ESQ.



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EXTRACTS FROM THE PREFACE.

The value and importance of the study of Geography are so obvious, and indeed so univer acknowledged, as to require little illustration. Nothing can be more interesting to man, or more tify his thirst for knowledge, than a survey of the earth which he inhabits, peopled as it is by be of the same nature with himself. To visit and observe foreign climes and regions is an obje general desire, and forms one of the most effectual means of enlarging and enlightening the hu mind. This wish, however, unless in the case of a few individuals, can be gratified only to a limited extent, and in none can embrace more than a small portion of the vast variety of intere objects which the earth comprises. This necessary defect of personal observation may, howeve in a great measure supplied, by collecting the reports and narratives of those intelligent indivi who have explored and described its various regions, and forming out of these a general descripti the world and its inhabitants.

During the last half century the most civilized nations of Europe have been contending with other for the glory of discovery ; and there is now scarcely a shore, however remote, or the interi a continent, however barbarous or difficult of access, which has not been explored and described. terials have thus been provided for a more complete, interesting, and authentic description of the than could have been drawn up at any former period.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great extent and difficult execution of a complete Geogr cal work, the Editor, during nearly ten years in which he has been engaged upon it, has use utmost exertion to procure from every quarter information and aid. He has studiously collecte most recent, authentic, and accurate accounts of the extent, natural features, population, product industry, political constitution, literature, religion, and social state of the various regions of the g with the leading details as to their districts and cities. The sciences connected with the natural tory of the earth have, however, attained to such an extent and importance, that a thorough k ledge of them can only be possessed by individuals who have especially devoted themselves to particular branch. The Editor, therefore, considered it essential to procure the co-operation of w who had risen to acknowledged eminence in the departments of Geology and Mineralogy, Zoo and Botany. He considered that he had fully succeeded, when Professor Jameson undertook to neate the geological structure of the globe, and the distribution of minerals over its surface ; Swainson to explain the distribution of animals, and the most remarkable of those found in each ticular region ; and Dr. Hooker to perform the same task in regard to the vegetable kingdom. fessor Wallace has illustrated the relations of the earth as a planet, the trigonometrical surveys construction of maps, and other subjects connected with mathematical science. These tasks been executed in a manner which, it is hoped, will fully support the high reputation of their respe authors. Various parts relating to remote countries have been revised by gentlemen recently retu from them.

The Maps, which are so numerous as to form a complete Atlas, have been executed from draw by Hall ; and having been carefully revised by the Editor, they will, it is hoped, be found to be rate, and to include all the most recent discoveries. Notwithstanding the smallness of the scale, are illustrated by the letter-press in a manner which enables them to comprise equal information others of much larger dimensions.

The other Wood Engravings are mostly original, or have been carefully selected from the faithful representations of the objects described ; and they are executed in the best style by the nent artists whose names appear on the title-page. They exhibit the most remarkable plants and mals, the chief cities, public buildings, natural curiosities, and picturesque scenery, with the chara istic figures and costumes of the natives, in the countries described. It is not believed that any of this kind is similarly embellished, at least to nearly the same extent. These representations a no means introduced for the sake of mere ornament ; they will be found of the greatest utility, veying an infinitely better idea of the objects than could be derived from the most laboured descrip

AMERICAN EDITION.

The American edition of the Encyclopædia of Geography has been carefully revised and rected throughout, and brought down to the period of its publication by such modifications of the ginal text as the nature of the changes to be made seemed to require. Thus new and more r statements of the commercial, financial, political, and other relations of countries have been often stituted for those given in the English edition of the work ; and the results of late discoveries been interwoven with the original matter, or have served to rectify some antiquated error, the gra removing of which from our manuals forms at present an important part of the task of the ge phical compiler. The portion of the work relating to the United States has been written anew, fills over two hundred pages ; a new and larger map of this country has also been given, and w cuts have been added to the chapter devoted to its description.

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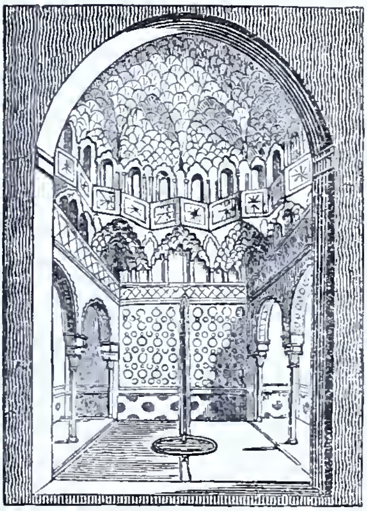
e curious traveller is soon attracted towards the Alhambra (*fig.* 315.), the ancient palace and fortress of the kings of Granada. It is the noblest specimen existing of Moorish architecture; and nothing perhaps in Europe, out of Italy and Greece, can come into competition with it. The site is fine, resembling that of Windsor, on a hill above the river. Its exterior structure, however, is the reverse of beautiful: a huge heap of ugly buildings huddled together, without the least seeming intention of forming one habitation; the walls only gravel and pebbles daubed over with plaster. On entering the threshold, however, the visiter seems transported into a fairy scene. He passes through a range of apartments; the baths, e Court of the Lions; the Hall of the Abencerrages (*fig.* 316.); the Golden Saloon, or all of the Ambassadors; the Gate of the Sanctuary of the Koran (*fig.* 317.); the Tower

315

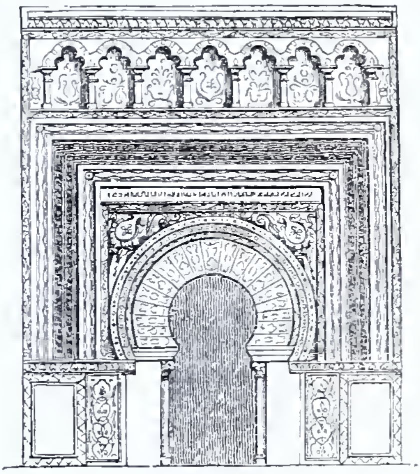
The Alhambra.

316



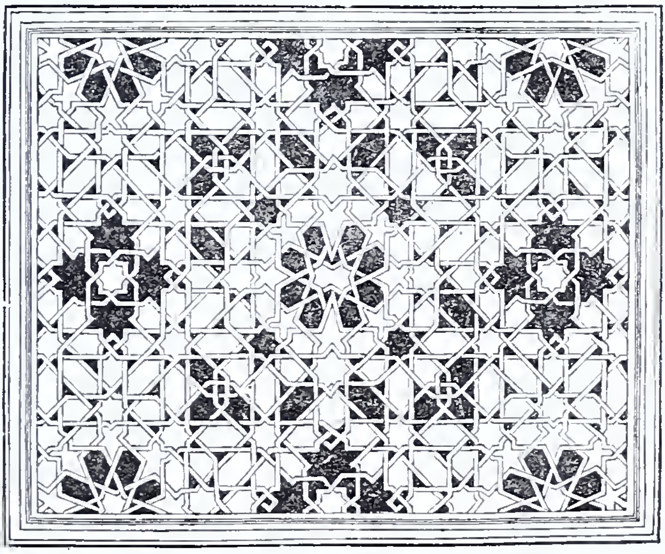
Hall of the Abencerrages.

317



Gate of the Sanctuary of the Koran.

318



Mosaic Pavement.

been found to the south of the line. The American Flamingo (*fig.* 1102), fully as tall a the European, is of a much more beautiful and intense scarlet; while the Wood Ibis, in form at least, seems to represen the Glossy Ibis so common in the south of Europe. The Herons of Carolina and Florida are numerous, and compris several large and beautiful species. The magnificent Scarle Ibis, also, is there not uncommon; yet few of these elegan wading birds extend to the northern part of the United States

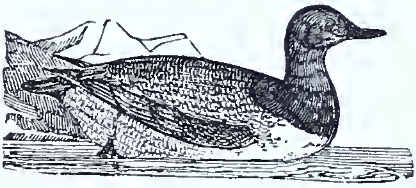
1102

American Flamingo.

Among the Ducks and other swimming tribes, there is general similarity in the species to those of Arctic America two or three only being restricted to the warmer shores of th southern regions. The chief of these is the splendid *Dendronessa sponsa* Sw., called the Summer or Tree-Duck of Sout Carolina. The Canvass-back Duck (*Fuligula Vallisneri* Wil.) (*fig.* 1103.) is chiefly found in temperate America, an is celebrated for the exquisite delicacy of its flesh, which i rich, juicy, tender, and altogether unrivalled by any other of its tribe. The Canvass-back, in its plumage very much resembles the English Pochard (*F. ferina*), but is larger; its principal food is the root of a vallisneria, a grass-like plant, whic grows at the bottom of freshwater shoals, at from seven t nine feet deep. In winter these birds sometimes assemble i such numbers as to cover several acres, but they are very shy and can only be approached by stratagem.

The American Widgeon (*Mareca Americana* L.) (*fig.* 1104.), called also the Bald-pate is about the size of the European species, but of a handsomer plumage; it does much injury to the rice plantations in the Southern States, and is the constant attendant of the Canvass-back ducks, thieving from these expert divers the fruits of their industry. The Widgeon, who never dives, watches the moment of the Canvass-back's rising, and before he has his eyes well opened, snatches the delicious morsel from his mouth, and makes off. On this account the two species live in perpetual contention. The Bald-pate ducks are said sometimes to perch on trees; they feed in company, guarded by one. Nearly all the rest of the duck tribe occur in the northern regions, which they quit for the United States during severe winters, and return to breed in the spring. America, like Europe, thus presents us with a double migration, and both for the same purposes; namely, to avoid cold, procure sustenance, and to rear their young.

1103



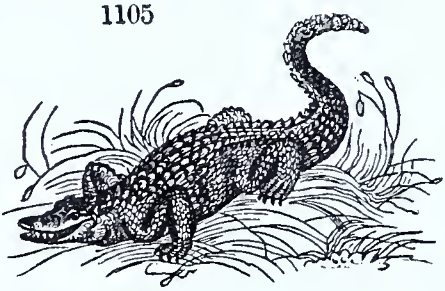
Canvass-back Duck.

1104

American Widgeon.

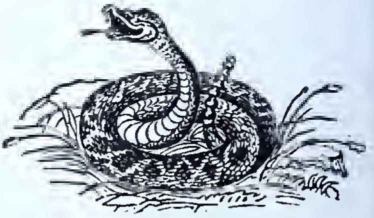
The reptiles offer little that is definite in regard to their distribution. The Alligator (*Crocodilus lucius*) (*fig.* 1105.), does not occur north of the Carolinas and the Red River, and in severe winters he buries himself in the mud, and lies in a torpid state. The Rattlesnakes (*fig.* 1106.) are peculiar to the New World; several species are met with in different parts of the United States, but those of North America are different from those of Brazil There are several land tortoises, but they are all of a moderate size. Some curious Sala

1105



Alligator.

1106



Rattlesnake.

marshy districts but little elevated above the level of the sea, afford no protection against hese destructive phenomena, which are equally prevalent in cold, in temperate, and in tropical climates. They are, however, generally considered more frequent near to coasts; thus, Syria, the coasts and islands of Asia, America, the European coasts of the Mediterranean, and Iceland, are most subject to them; while the plains of Africa, Asia, and the North of Europe are least exposed. Viewing the whole earth, and including every slighter agitation, earthquakes appear to be exceedingly numerous, and it may be maintained that not a week passes in which the earth's surface in some place or other is not more or less agitated. The great number of concussions observed in civilized countries, and the fact that some districts are constantly agitated by them, entitle us to draw the conclusion. Their return in the places most subject to them, and in the places where they are less frequent, is not regulated by any precise period of time. Their appearance is not connected with any particular season of the year or state of the atmosphere, and they take place by day as well as by night.

Phenomena of Earthquakes. The phenomena peculiar to earthquakes are in themselves ufficiently simple. They consist in tremblings and oscillations of the earth's surface, called hocks; extending over greater or smaller tracts of country, and frequently following a par-icular direction. The shocks appear at first chiefly as perpendicular heavings; then as orizontal undulations or oscillations; lastly, in some instances, there is a violent agitation: he motion is more or less rotatory. If to these we add the rending, slipping, rising and inking of the ground, the violent agitations of the sea, lakes, rivers, and springs; consist-ng, in springs, in their drying up or bursting forth with great violence; in lakes, rivers, and he ocean, in their falling and rising, and rushing backwards and forwards, owing to the inking and rising of the land, we obtain an enumeration of the principal phenomena. As he subject is very interesting, we shall view it somewhat in detail, and under the following eads: — 1. Shocks. 2. Extent of earthquakes. 3. Duration of shocks. 4. Magnitude of ents formed, and the phenomena connected with them, 5. Elevation and subsidence of the and. 6. Agitations in the sea. 7. Notice of particular earthquakes.

(1.) *Shocks.* The slighter shocks of an earthquake, consisting of perpendicular heavings nd horizontal undulations, commonly produce rents in houses, moving light objects in them, s articles of furniture. Persons unacquainted with the phenomenon, or who do not per-eive it from the subterraneous noise resembling thunder which accompanies it, feel un-teady while in their beds, but particularly when sitting, and believe themselves seized with sudden giddiness. The shocks proceed gradually to be more violent, and then they are ery easily perceived even by the inexperienced. Then the most substantial buildings are hattered to pieces, and the inhabitants buried beneath their ruins: while buildings of a lighter onstruction are only rent, and very slender reed huts are least of all exposed to destruction. n some cases the fracturing, or as it were trituration, surpasses description. Hence, for he plainest reasons, it is most dangerous to remain in houses or inhabited places; but even he fields and mountains themselves afford no perfect security, inasmuch as the fields fre-uently in some places open into fissures, and are rent asunder; while mountains are not nly rent, but slide down into the valleys, dam up rivers, form lakes, and cause inundations. lthough the desolation produced by these convulsions exceeds all description, this is much ore the case with the rotatory motions; a species of motion, however, the existence of hich has been denied by some geologists. In proof of it, however, it may be mentioned, hat during the earthquake of Catania, whose general direction was from S. E. to N. W., any statues were turned round, and a large mass of rock was turned 25° from South to ast. But the rotatory motion was more strikingly exemplified in the earthquake at Val-araiso, on the 19th November, 1822, by which many houses were turned round, and three alm-trees were found twisted round one another like willows. These rotatory motions of asses of rock are particularly interesting when viewed in connexion with the pheno-ena of faults or shifts among strata in non-volcanic districts. It is only the slighter earth-uakes that pass by with a single shock; in most of them more shocks follow at short inter-als, and for the most part the number is proportioned to the violence of the concussion. he first shock is sometimes the most powerful, but the second is as often, if not oftener, qually violent. Further, the concussions are also repeated after longer intervals, as the arthquakes in Syria, that sometimes continue for a number of months, with longer or shorter ntermissions; but the first catastrophe is generally the most violent and destructive.

(2.) *Extent of earthquakes.* It is the agitation of the sea that points out the great extent f the tracts of land convulsed by earthquakes. In this respect, the earthquake at Lisbon, n 1755, was the most remarkable and most violent that ever visited Europe. In conse-uence of it, by the concussion on the bottom, or momentary rising or upheaving of the sub-arine land, the sea overflowed the coasts of Sweden, England, and Spain, and of the slands of Antigua, Barbadoes, and Martinique in America. In Barbadoes the tide, which ises only 28 inches, rose 20 feet in the bay of Carlisle, and the water appeared as black as nk, owing probably to bituminous matter thrown up from the bed of the ocean. On the 1st f November, when the concussion was most violent, the water at Guadaloupe retreated wice, and on its return rose in the channel of the island to a height of from 10 to 12 feet.

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